

**CITY OF NEWTON**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**

Present: David Koses (Chair) Nina Want (Assistant Traffic Engineer) Ald. Danberg, Jerome Grafe (Resident Member) Captain Matthew Cummings (Police Department) , Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Also: Ald. Baker, Ald. Merrill, Ald. Linsky, Ald. Lennon, Ald. Johnson

#TC30-08      ALD. DANBERG AND MANSFIELD, on behalf of Lucia Dolan and other neighbors, requesting discussion of parking and safety issues at the corner of MARSHALL and SUMNER STREETS in Newton Centre (Ward 6). [01-24-08 @ 9:12 AM] **HELD 6/19/08 FOR 60-DAY TRIAL**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0**

**NOTE:**      Assistant Traffic Engineer Nina Wang gave a presentation, noting that most area streets have parking restrictions. Cars were parked on Marshall Street (north side) for more than 4 hours. Commuters use Marshall Street for all day parking. Some residents reported that cars have begun to travel faster since the parking restriction trial began. Several residents wanted to maintain parking on both sides of Marshall Street to reduce speeding, while other residents preferred a parking restriction on the south side to ensure access in the event of an emergency.

The Committee voted 5-0 to approve no parking on the south side of Marshall Street between Sumner Street and Chestnut Terrace; and two-hour parking Monday-Friday on the south side of Marshall Street between Chestnut Terrace and Grant Avenue.

#TC25-08(2)      ALD. LENNON, CICCONE, MERRILL, BAKER requesting discussion of potential pedestrian and vehicular safety improvement along Waverley Avenue, from Ward Street to Washington Street. (Ward 1) [7-30-08 @8:04 PM]

**ACTION:**      **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0**

**NOTE:**      David Koses addressed the Council and noted that this item was on the agenda in April when there were discussions regarding the installation of a pedestrian actuated signal as well as enforcement and edge line striping. The item was held to allow additional neighborhood discussion. The item was discussed again in June and the Traffic Council recommended that the Mayor be asked to appropriate \$100,000 to construct five pedestrian actuated signals throughout the City. Two pedestrian actuated signals would be on Waverley Avenue; one at the intersection of Waverley and Franklin and the second at Waverley and Arlington. The request was approved by the Public Safety and Transportation and the Finance Committees, and will be going to the Full Board on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Wang said that her understanding is that the primary concern is for pedestrians trying to cross Waverley Avenue. A number of residents spoke in favor of adding a stop sign on Waverly at the intersection of Franklin Street.

Morton Kliman of 215 Waverley Avenue was opposed to a stop sign or a full stop red light because, in his opinion, the whole idea is to get the traffic through at a reasonable speed. He noted that no one has addressed queuing theory in terms of the five red lights between Commonwealth Avenue all the way to Tremont Street. He said that if you put in a stop sign at Franklin and Waverley, there will be a back up of cars, creating more pollution. Stop signs and lights, he stated, will not improve the problem.

Ald. Lennon also felt that a four way stop would not help this situation and motorists may begin to cut through more residential streets. Ald. Danberg noted that the warrants used by the state for stop signs indicated that this location would not be eligible. Jerome Grafe felt the pedestrian activated signals would be a positive way to proceed.

The Committee voted No Action Necessary.

HP17-08      LEWIS ATKINS requesting a handicapped parking space in front of his home at 20 Trowbridge Street. (Ward 6)

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0**

**NOTE:**      The petitioner, Mr. Atkins was present and explained he has lived in Newton for over 30 years.

Ms. Wang said there is currently a handicapped spot on the street (which has been there since 1981). It was noted that this space is no longer needed. Based on 13 site visits, there were no cars parked in the immediate area. The Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities, recommended approval of the handicapped space. Ms. Wang asked if an on-street spot would be more helpful than parking in the driveway. Mr. Atkins said that his driveway was not convenient. A resident of 26 Trowbridge said that the space in front of her home is no longer needed and she was in support of Mr. Atkins petition.

The Committee voted to approve the request 5-0.

HP18-08      DR. MICHAEL SHEFF requesting handicapped parking space at the first meter to the left of the ramp entrance at 221 Washington Street. (Ward 1)

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED AS AMENDED 5-0** (Remove parking meter located closest to ramp entrance to 221 Washington Street. Install a 30-minute loading zone in that space.)

**NOTE:**      Dr. Sheff and Eric Sheff were present and said the purpose of the request was to allow chaircars and other vehicles to board and alight passengers on the curb. David Koses noted that if a handicapped parking space were approved, any motorist with a handicapped placard could legally park their car in that spot and leave it there all day. Ald. Danberg suggested that a loading zone, not a handicapped parking space, might be the best way to handle the need.

Nina Wang said the Mayor's Committee did recommend approval of a handicapped space. Field observations were made on six occasions. During the site visits, it was noted that one of the parking meters at 221 Washington Street has been occupied by the "junk it" truck on a daily basis. Ald. Danberg made a motion to remove a meter (closest to 221 Washington Street) and install a 30-minute loading zone. The motion was approved 5-0.

HP19-08      ALD. SALVUCCI on behalf of Daniel Visco petitioning for a handicapped space in front of 155 Adams Street. (Ward 1)

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 3-1-1 (Cummings opposed, Graf abstained)**

**NOTE:**      This space has been put in temporarily by the Police Department since the Traffic Council did not meeting over the summer.

Nina Wang visited the site and noted that Mr. Visio's car was parked there. Ms. Wang found that parking in the area is very tight. Mr. Koses said that the Mayor's Committee recommended continuing the temporary approval of this space until they determined whether they would recommend permanent approval. There was discussion that the approval of a temporary handicapped parking space by the Police Department put Traffic Council in the awkward position of potentially having to remove an existing handicapped parking space.

The Committee voted approval 3-1-1 (Cummings opposed, Graf abstaining).

HP20-08      NOREEN KIMBALL requesting a handicapped parking space at 24-26 Dale Street. (Ward 2)

**ACTION:**      **HELD 5-0**

**NOTE:**      Nina Wang said the street has no parking restrictions and her observations indicated that parking does not appear to be competitive. The house has a garage and two off-street parking spaces. Alderman Linsky noted that Ms. Kimball now has to compete with neighbors across the street for the parking space in front of Ms. Kimball's house.

In an effort to avoid the cost and effort of adding a handicapped parking space, Captain Cummings suggested that neighbors be asked to allow Ms. Kimball to park in the space closest to her home. The Committee agreed this seemed like a reasonable first step.

Ald. Danberg moved hold on this item until the next traffic meeting.

#TC3-08      ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT, AND LINSKY requesting discussion in order to determine the best ways to address parking, vehicular and pedestrian traffic issues in the Morseland Avenue area (Ward 2).  
**HELD 4/26/07**

**ACTION:**      **NAN 5-0**

**NOTE:**      This item was discussed in 2007 and was held at that time to await additional information about proposed expansion plans of synagogues in the area.

Site visits showed that most cars parked on Ward Street were near of Temple Beth El. There were no more than four cars parked on the side streets such as Channing Road and Elmore Street during the times visited. Ward Street (one way) is wide enough to support on-street parking.

Ald. Johnson explained that there are parking and pedestrian concerns in the area. Parking related to events and holidays occur at various times, and pedestrians continue to walk in the street.

A representative of Congregation Beth El was present and said that he would be willing to work with a Liaison Committee. He noted that Bonnie Pollin-Pomper would be involved. Jerome Grafe suggested the creation of a more formal Liaison Committee.

Ald. Danberg moved to NAN the current item and redocket it at a future point.

#TC39-08      ALD. BRANDEL on behalf of the Zervas School PTO requesting a study re the feasibility of extending and/or moving the school drop off zone in front of the Zervas School (**TPR-179, School drop off zones.**) [4-1-08 @5:06 PM] (Ward 5). **HELD 6/19/08 FOR 60-DAY TRIAL**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0 to make the trial permanent.**

**NOTE:**      A trial was approved in June and took place in September. The trial included the relocation of the blue zone southward (so that the end of the blue zone aligns with the main door of the school), and the relocation of parking to the area just north of the relocated blue zone. Since the trial began, no complaints were received. Nobody from the public attended the meeting to speak on the trial.

Chairman Koses made a motion to make the trial permanent. The motion was approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Chairman